

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 14804 131004Z

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ACTION A-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5975

INFO WHITE HOUSE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 14804

DEPARTMENT FOR A

WHITE HOUSE FOR HENKEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR JA OVIP (FORD, GERALD R.)

REF: TOKYO 14595

SUMMARY: KOMEITO HAS SENT LETTER ALONG LINES REFTEL TO PRESIDENT ASKING QUESTIONS CONCERNING NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND THE SECURITY TREATY. THIS MESSAGE PROPOSES A RESPONSE BY THE AMBASSADOR.
END SUMMARY

1. KOMEITO (KUROYANAGI) PROVIDED EMBASSY LATE NOVEMBER 12 WITH TEXT OF MULTI-PAGE LETTER FROM PARTY CHAIRMAN TAKEIRI TO PRESIDENT DATED NOVEMBER 9, 1974, AND AIRMAILED TO WASHINGTON SAME DAY (COPIES TO SECRETARY KISSINGER AND TO COUNSELOR TO PRESIDENT HARTMANN). THE LETTER EXPRESSES KOMEITO'S WISHES FOR DEEPENING CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE U.S., REGRETS FACT THAT A VARIETY OF PROBLEMS HAVE ARISEN BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, THE SOLUTION OF WHICH IS "ABSOLUTELY VITAL". THE LETTER STATES THAT AS A RESULT OF THE HORRORS OF WAR EXPERIENCED BY THE JAPANESE PEOPLE, THEY HAVE AN "UNSHAKABLE RESOLUTION" TO DEFEND THE PEACE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, AND TO SEE THAT ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE BANNED IMMEDIATELY. THE LETTER CONCLUDES WITH FOLLOWING THREE PARAGRAPHS: BEGIN TEXT: AS YOU KNOW, OUR NATION HAS FULLY ACCEPTED THE "THREE NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPLES" OF NEITHER PRODUCING, POSSESSING NOR IMPORTING NUCLEAR ARMS,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TOKYO 14804 131004Z

WHICH WERE PASSED BY DIET RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, BASED ON RECENT

EVIDENCE, QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED BEFORE THE DIET BY OUR PARTY AND OTHER OPPOSITION PARTIES ABOUT WHETHER NUCLEAR ARMS MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN STORED ON THE U.S. BASES IN JAPAN OR CARRIED BY U.S. WARSHIPS WHICH HAVE ENTERED JAPANESE PORTS. THIS POSSIBILITY HAS BEEN GREATLY STRENGTHENED BY COMMODORE (RET.) LA ROQUE'S (SIC) RECENT TESTIMONY BEFORE THE U.S. CONGRESS. EACH TIME THESE DOUBTS HAVE BEEN RAISED THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO HAVE DONE NOTHING MORE THAN TO COMPARE OPINIONS WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT. THE RESULT IS THAT IT HAS GIVEN EXTREMELY UNCONVINCING REPLIES WHICH HAVE RAISED A PROFOUND SENSE OF DISTRUST IN THE MINDS OF THE JAPANESE PEOPLE. I THEREFORE WISH TO ASK THAT YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, WILL FIRMLY RESPECT THESE THREE NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPLES WHICH ARE AGREED UPON IN GENERAL AND EARNESTLY DESIRED BY THE JAPANESE PEOPLE. I WOULD FURTHER LIKE TO ASK THAT YOU DECLARE YOUR INTENTIONS TO NEVER BRING ANY FORM OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTO THIS COUNTRY. AS A MORE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM, I WISH TO ASK THAT YOUR ADMINISTRATION

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ON THE BASIS OF FRIENDLY DISCUSSION AND COMMON AGREEMENT BY BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES, WILL DISCARD THE EXISTING JAPAN-U.S. SECURITY TREATY WHICH IS, IN EFFECT, A MILITARY ALLIANCE, AND REPLACE IT WITH A NEW JAPAN-U.S. FRIENDSHIP AND NON-AGGRESSION TREATY WHICH WILL PROMOTE A MORE SUBSTANTIAL SITUATION OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS. IN CONCRETE TERMS, SUCH WOULD INDICATE THE REMOVAL OF ALL MILITARY-ORIENTED ARTICLES IN THE PRESENT SECURITY TREATY, AND THE CONCLUSION OF A NEW TREATY AIMED AT AN IMPROVED U.S.-JAPAN FRIENDSHIP BASED ON THE "FIVE PRINCIPLES OF PEACE" WHICH PLACES PRIME EMPHASIS ON INCREASED EXCHANGES IN ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL FIELDS

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I SINCERELY WISH TO ASK FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND CONSIDERATION OF THESE POINTS. PLEASE BE SO KIND AS TO LET US HEAR YOUR VIEWS, FOR THE JAPANESE PEOPLE ARE WITHOUT DOUBT LOOKING FORWARD TO RECEIVING A DEFINITE ANSWER REGARDING THE ABOVE. END TEXT

2. KUROYANAGI SAID IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL IF WE COULD PROVIDE A RESPONSE TO THE LETTER IN TIME FOR TAKEIRI'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT ABOUT NOON TOKYO TIME, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16. IT IS BEING HELD TO ANNOUNCE DETAILS OF ANNUAL KOMEITO CONVENTION ON NOVEMBER 19, BUT KAKEIRI EXPECTS AT THAT TIME TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS ON THE LETTER AND ON THE PARTY'S POSITION REGARDING THE PRESIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TOKYO 14804 131004Z

VISIT. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT WE RESPOND WITH A LETTER FROM THE AMBASSADOR ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. TAKEIRI: THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU HIS APPRECIATION FOR YOUR LETTER OF NOVEMBER 9, 1974. PRESIDENT FORD HOPES THROUGH HIS VISIT TO JAPAN TO STRENGTHEN THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND TO REAFFIRM OUR COMMON COMMITMENT TO THE SEARCH FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY FOR THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

THE UNITED STATES HAS A DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF JAPANESE SENTIMENT AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND OF THE PROFOUND ASPIRATIONS EMBODIED IN THE JAPANESE CONSTITUTION. IN THIS CONNECTION, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE, FAITHFUL TO ALL OF ITS OBLIGATIONS TO JAPAN UNDER THE TREATY OF MUTUAL COOPERATION AND SECURITY AND ITS RELATED ARRANGEMENTS. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THIS TREATY CONTINUES TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN ENSURING THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF THE FAR EAST, INCLUDING JAPAN. THE TREATY THREATENS NO ONE BUT INSTEAD ENHANCES PROSPECTS FOR ENDURING PEACE. FAR MORE THAN A MILITARY AGREEMENT, THE TREATY RECORDS OUR COMMON PLEDGE TO STRENGTHEN THE BONDS OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN US, TO ENCOURAGE CLOSER ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND TO REFRAIN FROM ACTING IN ANY MANNER IN CONSISTENT WITH PURPOSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT CONTINUATION OF THE TREATY SERVES THE HIGHEST INTERESTS OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES AND THE CAUSE OF PEACE. SINCERELY JAMES D. HODGSON, AMBASSADOR. END TEXT
HODGSON

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